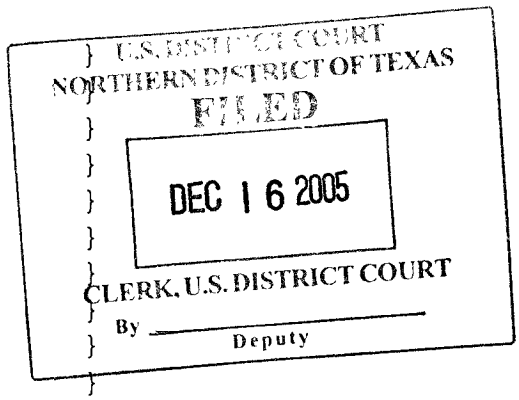
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
ABILENE DIVISION



TSEPHANYAH Y. HAWKINS,
YAHCHANAN Y. HAWKINS and
Plaintiffs,

v.

THE HONORABLE JOHN W. WEEKS,
in his personal capacity,
CLAUDIA HUTCHINSON, in her personal capacity and in her capacities with S.A.W Solutions, Inc., StenoScribe, Incorporated, Vocedit, Inc., and/or The South Carolina School of Court Reporting, Inc.,
NORMAN OSTER, in his personal capacity and in his capacities with S.A.W. Solutions, Inc., StenoScribe Incorporated, Vocedit, Inc., and/or The South Carolina School of Court Reporting, Inc.,
STENOSCRIBE, INCORPORATED,
VICTORIA L. CARTER,
MARILYN GARDNER, in her personal capacity and her capacities with The National Institute of Realtime Reporters, Inc.,
JOHN CHISTOLINI, in his personal capacity and his capacities with The National Institute of Realtime Reporters, Inc.,
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REALTIME REPORTERS, INC.,
S.A.W. SOLUTIONS, INC.,
THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF COURT REPORTING, INC.,
VOCEDIT, INC.,
CHARLES C. SELF, III,
DONALD L. ANDERSON, JR.,
WHITTEN & YOUNG, P.C.,
CARTER LAW OFFICES, and
CHISTOLINI AND DESIMONE, INC.
Defendantss

Civil Action No.
1-05CV-184-C

ANSWER OF RIYYAHNAH TIPHARAHYAH HAWKINS A/K/A CLAUDIA HUTCHINSON, STENOSCRIBE, INC., QANAYAH YISRAYL HAWKINS A/K/A/ NORMAN OSTER, AND VOICEDIT, INC. TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Come now RIYYAHNAH TIPHARAHYAH HAWKINS A/K/A/ CLAUDIA HUTCHISON, hereinafter referred to as "Hutchison," STENOSCRIBE, INC., hereinafter referred to as "Stenoscribe," QANAYAH YISRAYL HAWKINS A/K/A NORMAN OSTER, hereinafter referred to as "Oster," and VOCEDIT, INC., hereinafter referred to as "Vocedit," and such parties know collectively as "Defendants," and subject to any prior motions filed under Rule 12(b), Fed. R. Civ. P., answer the numbered paragraphs in the PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT hereinafter referred to as the "Complaint' as follows:

1. Defendants denies that this Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction under 18 U.S.C. §1595 under the allegations set forth in the Complaint.

2. Defendants denies that this Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331 under the allegations set forth in the Complaint.

3. Defendants denies that this Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1343 under the allegations set forth in the Complaint.

4. Defendants denies that this Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction under 18 U.S.C. §1961 under the allegations set forth in the Complaint.

5. Defendants denies that this Court possesses subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1367 under the allegations set forth in the Complaint.

6. Defendants denies that venue is proper in this District and Division.

7. Defendants would show the Court that Plaintiff Courtroom Data Solutions, Inc. has been dismissed from this lawsuit. Subsequent to such dismissal, Plaintiffs have forward to Defendants Plaintiff's Second Amended Petition, and have requested leave of Court to file same. This Defendants has filed a written consent for the remaining Plaintiffs to file same so that this Defendants can properly answer same.

8. Due to such Plaintiff being dismissed, Defendants deny each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 7 through 436 of PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT, unless otherwise stated herein.

9. Pleading with particularity. Defendants respond to the numbered paragraphs of the Complaint as follows:

8. Defendants admit that the named Plaintiff Tsephanyah Yisrayl Hawkins is an individual who, to their knowledge, presently resides in Clyde, Texas, and has since 1996. **Defendants would show the court that Hutchison and this plaintiff are cousins.** Hutchison has a son named Micahyah Hawkins, and he was named as a director of CDS. (See Exhibit "D" to PLAINTIFFS'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT, Article Seven) Such Plaintiff had informed Hutchison that she could not be a director until she moved to Texas. Hutchison would also assert that she is a 50% interest owner in CDS. (See allegations contained in the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION labeled Exhibit "A" to PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT.) Defendants denies all other allegations.

11. Defendants admit that Stenoscribe, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Texas. Defendants deny all other allegations contained in such paragraph at this time.

13. Defendants admit the allegation that the Defendant mentioned in this paragraph is a corporation formed under the laws of the state of South Carolina, on August 31, 2004, with its principal place of business being in South Carolina. (See Exhibit "A" attached to ANSWER TO AMENEDE COMPLAINT filed by THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF COURT REPORTING, INC. and incorporated herein for all purposes as if copied verbatim.) Defendants denies all other allegations.

14. A. Defendants would show the court that CLAUDIA HUTCHISON had her name legally changed or about September 26, 1996, in Cause No.96-1082-N in the 326th District Court in and for Taylor County, Texas. A certified copy of the DECREE CHANGING NAME OF ONE ADULT is

attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein for all purposes as if copied verbatim. Defendants is in the process of having her name changed back to CLAUDIA MARIE HUTCHISON.

B. Defendants denies that any of such Defendants nor any of their authorized agents, servants, or employees have criminally conspired with any other named Defendants in this action.

C. Defendants admits that Hutchison presently resides in South Carolina.

D. Defendants does admit that Hutchison utilizes a software program that Hutchison has an interest in along with Plaintiff Tsephanyah Hawkins.

E. Attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein for all purposes, is a true and correct authenticated copy of the **PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT, the original of which was filed with the UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.** Such application was filed by the Plaintiff Tsephanyah Y Hawkins. As is evidenced by such document, it appears that RIYYAHNAH TIPHARAHYAH HAWKINS (Hutchison) is a **co-inventor** with reference to the computerized court reporter system that is the basis of the state court action and the computerized court reporter system complained herein by the Plaintiffs. Therefore, it is all Defendants position that any usage of such reporter system would have been legal since Hutchinson is a co-inventor of such system and would have authorized their use of such system.

F. From 1997 to 2001 Hutchison did not perform typing or bookkeeping for the corporation. She funded the entire operation of StenoScribe, Inc. from the time of its inception, including, but not limited to, programming materials to educate Hawkins, necessary computers needed for the running of the corporation, hardware, all startup costs associated with forming the corporation. She provided these monies because she had a 50 percent ownership. The only reason that she did not handle the bookkeeping is because of geographical restrictions. The StenoScribe toll free number was always directed to her personal phone lines or her court reporting agency. From 2001 forward, she took control of the checkbook due to Hawkins' ineptness of handling payments to vendors and websites and phones being turned off. She at all times handled every aspect of the corporation except for check writing until she moved to Texas in February of 2001. Computers were sent to her in Massachusetts for her to assemble. All financial debt was charged off on her personal and business credit cards. It was always represented to her that she was a 50 percent shareholder. She denies any criminal conspiracy. She denies violating any of Hawkins' rights

18. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations because it lacks sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth. The Defendants denies it criminally conspired with the Defendants Carter.

19. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations unless admitted herein because it lacks sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth. Defendants admits that Oster presently resides in South Carolina. Defendants admits that Oster is employed as an instructor. Defendants admits that Oster on or after August 31, 2004, has at times been an agent, servant or employee of Defendants, but never with any relation to any Plaintiff. The Defendants denies Oster has criminally conspired with the Defendants Oster. Defendants deny any other allegations contained within such paragraph.

20. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations because it lacks sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth. The Defendants denies it criminally conspired with the Defendants NIRR.

21. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations because it lacks sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth. The Defendants denies it criminally conspired with the Defendants Gardner.

24. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations because it lacks sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth. The Defendants denies it criminally conspired with the Defendants Chistolini.

25. Defendants admit that Vocedit, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Texas. Defendants deny any and all other allegations contained in such paragraph.

33. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations because it lacks sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth. The Defendants denies it criminally conspired with the Defendants Chistolini & DeSimone, P.C.

42. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations because it lacks sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth. The Defendants denies it corruptly conspired to obtain or provide labor and services to the Plaintiffs.

47. Defendants neither admits nor denies the allegations because they lack sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to their truth, but denies that the issuance of the Temporary Injunction constitutes action under color of state law.

First Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Property Without Due Process

174. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-173 as if set forth separately herein.

176. Paragraph 176 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Second Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Liberty Without Due Process

182. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-181 as if set forth separately herein.

184. Paragraph 184 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Third Claim for Relief
Deprivation of 13th Amendment Right to be Free From Enslavement

190. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-189 as if set forth separately herein.

192. Paragraph 192 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Fourth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Freedom of Expression

198. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-197 as if set forth separately herein.

200. Paragraph 200 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Fifth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Privacy

206. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-205 as if set forth separately herein.

208. Paragraph 208 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Sixth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Property Without Due Process

214. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-213 as if set forth separately herein.

216. Paragraph 216 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Seventh Claim for Relief
Deprivation of 13th Amendment Right to be Free From Enslavement

222. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-221 as if set forth separately herein.

224. Paragraph 224 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Eighth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Freedom of Expression

230. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-229 as if set forth separately herein.

232. Paragraph 232 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Ninth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Privacy

238. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-229 as if set forth separately herein.

240. Paragraph 240 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Tenth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Property Without Due Process

246. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-229 as if set forth separately herein.

248. Paragraph 248 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Eleventh Claim for Relief
Deprivation of 13th Amendment Right To Be Free From Enslavement

254. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-229 as if set forth separately herein.

256. Paragraph 256 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Twelfth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Freedom of Expression

262. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-229 as if set forth separately herein.

264. Paragraph 264 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Thirteenth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Privacy

271. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1 -270 as if set forth separately herein.

273. Paragraph 273 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Fourteenth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Property Without Due Process

279. The Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-278 as if set forth separately herein.

281. Paragraph 281 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Fifteenth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of 13th Amendment Right to Be Free from Enslavement

287. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-286 as if set forth separately herein.

289. Paragraph 289 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Sixteenth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Freedom of Expression

295. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-294 as if set forth separately herein.

297. Paragraph 297 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Seventeenth Claim for Relief
Deprivation of Privacy

303. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-302 as if set forth separately herein.

305. Paragraph 305 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Eighteenth Claim for Relief
RICO

311. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1 -310 as if set forth separately herein.

313. Paragraph 313 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Nineteenth Claim for Relief
RICO Conspiracy

322. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1 -322 if set forth separately herein.

324. Paragraph 324 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Twentieth Claim for Relief
RICO

333. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-332 if set forth separately herein.

335. Paragraph 335 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Twenty-First Claim for Relief
RICO

343. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-342 as if set forth separately herein.

345. Paragraph 345 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Twenty-Second Claim for Relief
Forced Labor

353. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-352 as if set forth separately herein.

Twenty-Third Claim for Relief
Goods Sold and Delivered

361. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1 -360 as if set forth separately herein.

Twenty-Fourth Claim for Relief
Monies Had and Received

365-368. This Count relates to parties other than the Defendants to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required the allegations are denied.

Twenty-Fifth Claim for Relief
Monies Had and Received

369-372. This Count relates to parties other than the Defendants to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required the allegations are denied.

Twenty-Sixth Claim for Relief
Monies Had and Received

373. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-343 as if set forth separately herein.

374- 376. This Count relates to parties other than the Defendants to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required the allegations are denied.

Twenty-Seventh Claim for Relief
Legal Malpractice

377-384. This Count relates to parties other than the Defendants to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required the allegations are denied.

Twenty-Eighth Claim for Relief
Unjust Enrichment

385. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-384 as if set forth separately herein.

Twenty-Ninth Claim for Relief
Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

389. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-388 as if set forth separately herein.

Thirtieth Claim for Relief
Breach of Fiduciary Duty

393. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-392 as if set forth separately herein.

395-401 This Count relates to parties other than the Defendants to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required the allegations are denied.

Thirty-First Claim for Relief
Fraud

402. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-401 as if set forth separately herein.

403-408 This Count relates to parties other than the Defendants to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required the allegations are denied.

Thirty-Second Claim for Relief
Breach of Fiduciary Duty

409. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-409 as if set forth separately herein.

410- 418. This Count relates to parties other than the Defendants to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required the allegations are denied.

Thirty-Third Claim for Relief
Conspiracy to Deprive Rights

419. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1 -418 as if set forth separately herein.

421. Paragraph 421 states a conclusion of law to which no answer is required. To the extent that an answer is required, the allegations are denied.

Thirty-Fourth Claim for Relief
Neglect to Prevent Conspiracy

429. Defendants re-allege and incorporate their answers to paragraphs 1-418 as if set forth separately herein.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

First Affirmative Defense

This Court lacks personal jurisdiction over the Defendants The South Carolina School of Court Reporting. Such corporation was formed under the laws of the state of South Carolina on or after August 31, 2004. Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A" is a true and correct copy of an authenticated document certifying such fact.

Second Affirmative Defense

This Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the claims asserted under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 as the complaint does not allege cognizable state action upon which such claims must be based.

Third Affirmative Defense

The Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted against this Defendants.

Fourth Affirmative Defense
The Complaint seeks to assert claims on behalf of the corporate plaintiff Courtroom Data Solutions, Inc. which is not represented by counsel admitted to practice law in the State of Texas or in the Federal District Court for the District of Texas. Accordingly those

claims can not proceed against the Defendants unless an appearance by counsel is filed on behalf the Plaintiff, Courtroom Data Solutions, Inc.

Fifth Affirmative Defense

The Amended Complaint fails to plead its allegations of fraud with particularity as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b).

Sixth Affirmative Defense

The Complaint fails to plead its allegation of special damages with particularity as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(g).

Seventh Affirmative Defense

The Amended Complaint fails to plead with particularity the required predicate acts necessary to set forth a claim under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961 and 1962.

Eighth Affirmative Defense

A. Based on information and belief, Hutchinson's real name at this time is Riyyahnah Tipharahyah Hawkins.

B. Attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein for all purposes, is a true and correct authenticated copy of the **PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT, the original of which was filed with the UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.** Such application was filed by the Plaintiff Tsephanyah Y Hawkins. As is evidenced by such document, it appears that Hutchison is a **co-inventor** with reference to the computerized court reporter system that is the basis of the state court action and the computerized court reporter system complained herein by the Plaintiffs. Defendants believes and therefore alleges that any usage of such reporter system would have been with the express consent of Defendants Hutchison, who is a co-inventor of such system.

C. Based on information and belief, this Defendants believes that Hutchison has a right to have the computerized court reporter system, and market it and use it any way she wants. Defendants would show the court that at all relevant time Hutchison gave them permission to utilize in any way such computer reporting software.

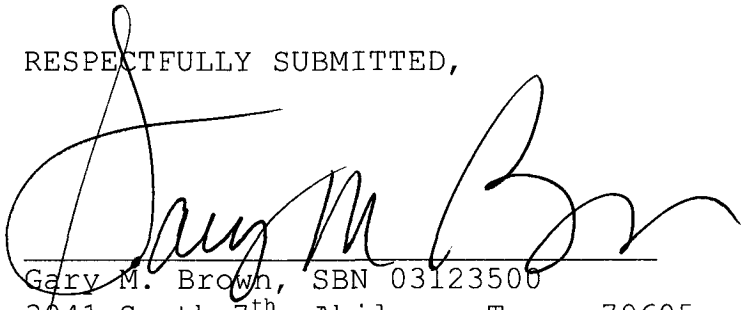
WHEREFORE, having fully answered, said Defendants, respectfully pray

judgment of the Court that the Plaintiffs claims against this

Defendants be dismissed, that Plaintiffs take nothing, that Defendants recover their costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, and for such other and further relief, general or special, at large or in equity, to which it may be entitled.

The Defendants demands a jury trial on all counts.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Gary M. Brown, SBN 03123500
3041 South 7th, Abilene, Texas 79605
(325)673-9599; fax (325)673-5772
Attorney for Defendants
The South Carolina School of
Court Reporting, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on this the 16 day of December, 2005, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on all parties of record by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or by Fax if number is show, as addressed below:

Tsephanyah Y. Hawkins Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested
3706 Private Road 2547
Clyde, Texas 79510

Yahehanan Y. Hawkins Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested
3471 Private Road 2541
Clyde, Texas 79510

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3131 Turtle Creek Voulevard
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Fax 214.559.4466
Attorney for Whitten & Young, P.C.
Charles C. Self III, and
Donald L. Anderson

Hao Le
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Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015

Gary M. Brown

District Court Of
Taylor County, Texas
326th Judicial District

No. 96-1082-C

FILED

'96 SEP 26 AM 9 30

JO ANN LACKEY
DISTRICT CLERK
TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS
DEPUTY

DECREE CHANGING NAME OF ONE ADULT

This case was tried on September 26, 1996. Petitioners, CLAUDIA MARIE HUTCHISON appeared in ~~person and by attorney~~ and announced ready for trial.

The Court examined the pleadings and heard the evidence and argument of counsel. The Court finds that all necessary residence qualifications and prerequisites of law have been legally satisfied, that this Court has jurisdiction of all the parties and subject matter of this cause.

The Court finds that there is good cause for the change of the name of the Petitioner and that the change of name is in the interest or to the benefit of the Petitioner.

IT IS ORDERED that the name of the Petitioner, CLAUDIA MARIE HUTCHISON be changed.

IT IS ORDERED that the new name of the Petitioner be and is RIYYAHNAH TIPHARAHYAH HAWKINS.

All costs of Court in this cause are adjudged against the Petitioner.

SIGNED this 26th day of September 1996.

Judge Presiding

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TAYLOR
CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
OF THE ORIGINAL IN MY CUSTODY
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE
DATED December 6 A.D., 2005
PATRICIA HENDERSON
DISTRICT CLERK OF TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS
BY _____ DEPUTY

EXHIBIT "A"

150-814

PA 2336829

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

November 04, 2004

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ANNEXED HERETO IS A TRUE COPY FROM THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE OF THOSE PAPERS OF THE BELOW IDENTIFIED PATENT APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A FILING DATE UNDER 35 USC 111.

APPLICATION NUMBER: *60/051,623*
FILING DATE: *July 07, 1997*

By Authority of the
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

M. K. HAWKINS
Certifying Officer

EXHIBIT "B"

15 75-214 A/PRa

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → [+]

PTO/SB/16 (3-97)
Approved for use through 1/31/98. OMB 0651-0037
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (b)(2).

07/07/97

INVENTOR(S)		
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
Tsephanyah Yisrayl Riyyahnah Tipharahyah	Hawkins Hawkins	Abilene, Texas Abilene, Texas

☐ *Additional inventors are being named on the ___ separately numbered sheets attached hereto*

TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)

COMPUTERIZED VOICE WRITER COURT REPORTING SYSTEM

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Direct all correspondence to:

☐ Customer Number → *Type Customer Number here*

OR

Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here

☑ Firm or Individual Name	Tsephanyah Hawkins				
Address	P.O. Box 839				
Address					
City	Abilene	State	Texas	ZIP	79604
Country	USA	Telephone	915-893-4265	Fax	

ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS *(check all that apply)*

☑ Specification *Number of Pages* 28

☑ Drawing(s) *Number of Sheets* 15

☑ Small Entity Statement

☑ Other (specify) Certificate of mailing By Express Mail

METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT *(check one)*

☑ A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees

☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number.

FILING FEE AMOUNT ($): 75.00

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

☑ No.

☐ Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE Tsephanyah Yisrayl Hawkins Date 7/7/97

TYPED or PRINTED NAME Tsephanyah Yisrayl Hawkins REGISTRATION NO. *(if appropriate)*

TELEPHONE 915-893-4265 Docket Number:

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Provisional Patent Application

for

COMPUTERIZED VOICE WRITER COURT REPORTING SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a court reporting system whereby the audio of a legal proceeding and the audio of the court reporter repeating what they hear and commenting on the occurrences of the proceeding are electronically recorded, indexed and retrieved for repeating back and transcription.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Voice Writer Reporters are Court Reporters that repeat legal proceedings verbatim into a tape recorder. All events occurring in a proceeding, legal or otherwise are thereby stored for repeating, transcription, and future reference.

Voice writer court reporters commonly utilize a cassette recorder that typically has two tracks: a live track for recording the audio of the proceedings and a reporter track to record the voice of the court reporter repeating the

audio of the proceedings and the events of the proceedings as he or she hears them. The record is then transcribed from the cassette. Often the record is made on a cassette recorder operating at the unusual speed of 5/16 inch per second.

There are many significant disadvantages inherent in this system. Among them is the fact that cassette tapes, especially when the reporter is under the stress often associated with court reporting, don't always go into the recorder correctly. They often get stuck, they often get jammed, they often get mixed up, and they can get inadvertently erased.

Another significant disadvantage with the use of cassette tapes is the difficulty in repeating back questions. To repeat a question, the Voice Writer must rewind the cassette tape to the place where the question began. Finding that location is awkward because there is no controlled way to index questions other than the last question that is asked. Furthering the problem is the common practice of attorneys to strike questions.

Another significant disadvantage with the use of cassette tapes is the short length of the tape. Typically tapes will record for only 30 minutes before needing to be changed or flipped over. This need often arises during critical testimony and often the court reporter is unaware of the fact that the tape has

reached its end. The result is often a costly and irrecoverable loss of a portion of the record or an interruption in the proceedings.

Another disadvantage with the use of cassette tapes is the lack of a means to notify the reporter, when they are transcribing, of events occurring away from the live microphone or silent objections where an attorney simply raises his or her hand. Events and objections are usually repeated by the court reporter into the court reporter track of the cassette, however, reporters typically type from the live track of the cassette and they often miss such events and silent objections which can only be heard on the court reporter track of the cassette.

Other disadvantages include the need for a special cassette machine to play back the 5/16 inch per second tapes used by many courts.

Other disadvantages include the need to use a foot-pedal to backspace the tape when transcribing. The foot-pedal is both tiring and inefficient and has been known to cause injury because it often has to be pushed several thousand times a record.

Other disadvantages include the need for a specially modified transcriber so the reporter can switch between the courtroom track and the track containing the voice of the reporter. It is not only costly, but it also requires

that the reporter remove her hands from the keyboard in order to switch tracks; this causes both fatigue and inefficiency.

Other disadvantages include the tedium of transferring notes from paper to the final, transcribed record.

Other disadvantages include the low fidelity of cassette tapes, the lack of any means to take notes other than on paper, and the possibility of recording over the record after repeating a question.

There are many systems and inventions that attempt to solve the problems associated with court reporting, however, almost without exception these attempts solve the problems of court reporters that use the stenotype machine. This invention's primary object is to solve many problems associated with voice writer court reporting.

It is one object of the present invention to provide a system that does not use cassette tapes and does not have the problems of tapes not going into the recorder, tapes jamming, tapes getting mixed up, and tapes getting inadvertently erased.

It is one object of the present invention to provide a system that can speed up audio dubbed from 5/16 inch per second tapes played on a regular

cassette player into the system so they can be transcribed at a comfortable speed using the system.

It is one object of the present invention to provide a system that will simultaneously record two or more tracks of audio for 8 or more hours uninterrupted.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a system that will backspace the record with a simple and selectable keyboard key combination while the system runs on a computer that is also running the word processor and or voice typing system.

It is another object of the present invention to increase the efficiency of transferring case information and notes to the final, transcribed report by saving that information into a database of standard format so it can be imported into most word processor programs.

Yet another object of the present invention is to increase the efficiency of the repeating of questions by a means that indexes questions in reverse order of their being asked, adjusts their index relative to the last question asked, then plays back those questions corresponding to user input according to their count from the last question asked. So if an attorney asks to hear the last question again, the reporter can hit, in the preferred embodiment, the Function-1 key.

To hear the second to last question, the reporter would hit the Function-2 key etc...

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a system that will prevent a stricken question from being inadvertently repeated back.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a system which will allow a voice writer to keep notes including hard to spell words and phrases with a method for moving rapidly to the record at the point of those notes.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a system that will prevent a reporter from inadvertently erasing the record or a portion of the record.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a system that will, upon user request, rapidly switch from track to track by simply using a selectable keyboard key combination that can be used on the same computer and at the same time as a word processor program.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a system that allows the user to easily change the play speed for efficient comprehension.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a system that notifies the reporter, while they are transcribing, of events such as objections and alerts.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a system that can run on relatively inexpensive notebook computers, and a system that can run along with a word processor when the system is in the transcriber mode.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a system that can use an ordinary keyboard and/or pointing device such as a mouse as its primary control input.

SUMMARY

The foregoing objects have been achieved by this invention which is a court reporting system whereby the testimony of individuals and the voice of a court reporter repeating that testimony and describing events surrounding it are recorded and transcribed and, more particularly, a court reporting system for providing and transcribing an indexed, digital audio record under the control of a single court reporter comprising a computer loaded with software together having a keyboard and pointing device for court reporter control, and audio input of one or more tracks; a video display or other device for indicating operational modes, software status, input and output levels, event counts, and

record and machine status; an audio output of one or more tracks for reading back questions, verifying the record, and transcription; a system clock; a short-cut key selection means for allowing operation of the transcription program concurrently with a word processor program; an event indexing means allowing the indexing and playback of the record at categorized events including questions, objections and hard to spell words including names; means easing record capture and transcription including means to vary playback speed, a means to record 5/16 inch per second court tapes directly from a regular 1 ¼ inch per second cassette player into the system and play it back at a comfortable speed, and means to notify reporter of objections and alerts on the record while they are transcribing the record, means to vary transcription backspace and means to adjust the volume and record levels, means to rapidly repeat back questions, objections and other courtroom events, a means to strike questions from the index in order to maintain an accurate question order and eliminate the inadvertent reading back of stricken questions; means for reducing reporter paperwork including a graphical interface window into which the reporter can enter and retrieve case information, a notes window for maintaining and correcting hard to spell words and phrases and for quickly finding and playing back testimony on a noted subject, and automatic on-

record and off-record indexing; means for simplifying system usage including a means to indicate disk and record time remaining, a means for indicating record and playback audio levels, objection and question counts, and a means for automatically saving and retrieving system settings including volume levels, speed settings, backspace settings, filenames etc...; and a means to transfer data to other computers or storage devices for archiving, review, or transcription.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a table showing the event database linked to the live audio and the court reporter audio tracks.

FIG. 3 is a table showing the fields contained in the case information database

FIG. 4 is a drawing depicting a voice writer court reporting system according to the present invention in its preferred embodiment.

FIGS. 5-9 are the flow chart of the system in its reporting mode.

FIGS. 10-15 are the flow chart of the system in its transcribing mode.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The court reporting system of the present invention is depicted in Fig. 4. The heart of the system is a control and processing routine comprising of a program which directs the acquisition, conversion and storage of audio data, reporter input of events and commands, program information display and audio output through a series of steps and processes that direct and configure the hardware components of the embodiment.

In the preferred embodiment, depicted in Fig. 1 and 4, the central control and processing routine 209 resides on a notebook computer 304 and is interfaced via a Graphical User Interface operating system to the hardware components of the embodiment. As those skilled in the art will appreciate, the central control and processing routine 209 could instead utilize a non-Graphical User Interface operating system or reside on a microcontroller and interface directly with the hardware components of the invention sans operating system.

As Fig. 1 illustrates, the preferred embodiment includes a notebook computer 304 that includes the hardware components of the invention. These comprise storage media in the form of a hard drive 207 that, as those skilled in the art will appreciate, could instead be an optical disk drive, magnetic tape drive, or other device capable of storing digitized audio; an analog to

digital/digital to analog converter 205 designed to convert analog audio into digital data at a sampling rate sufficient to produce adequate audio fidelity that, in the preferred embodiment, resides in the notebook computer in the form of a sound integrated circuit; a user interface that, in the preferred embodiment, comprises of the notebook's keyboard 307, pointing device and video display 305 and could, as those skilled in the art will appreciate, also comprise a voice recognition program for both system control and transcription; one or more audio sources that, in the preferred embodiment, include a line-input 308 for dubbing cassette tapes onto the system, a courtroom live microphone 302 a reporter's microphone 303 and an amplifier, mixer or sound compressor; and an audio output transducer that, in the preferred embodiment, consists of a set of headphones 301.

Turning now to central control and processing routine 209 utilized by the present invention. The central control and processing routine 209 operates in one of two modes, therefore it is depicted by two logic flow charts. The first, Figs. 5-9, is the flow chart of the central control and processing routine 209 in its reporting mode. The second, Figs. 10-15, is the flow chart of the central control and processing routine 209 in its transcribing mode. Each step

of the central control and processing routine 209 will be discussed in detail: first, the flow chart of Figs. 5-9.

The program begins in subroutine Load Program 41 where it transfers from nonvolatile storage into the computer's operating memory. Depending upon the embodiment of the invention, this may be the result of boot-up or user input. It then proceeds to subroutine Initialize 42 where it initializes variables, files and device drivers. It then begins two continuously running yet independent instruction loops the first of which begins in subroutine Get Status Info 43 which obtains information including the current filename, disk time remaining, audio input and output levels, event counts, current track, current notes, and file length data. The program then proceeds to subroutine Display Info 44 which displays the information obtained by subroutine Get Status Info 43 and proceeds back to subroutine Get Status Info 43 completing the circuit of the first of two continuously running loops.

Subroutine Initialize 42 then proceeds to begin the second continuously running yet independent loop that awaits user input and acts on it then repeats the loop. This loop begins with subroutine Detect User Input 45 which awaits user input and passes that input to branch subroutines Event Marker 46, Record 50, Play Question 54, Change Speed 59, Adjust Volume 62,

Change Track 64, Enter Note 67, Play Note 71, See Case Information 75, Correct Notes 78, Stop Recording 81, Strike Last Question 84, and Shut Down 86. Each of those branch subroutines branches to other subroutines depending upon user input. Those branch subroutines will now be discussed in detail.

If the user input is an event marker, subroutine Event Marker 46 causes the program to proceed to subroutine Determine Category of Event 47 that determines the category of the event marker by using a look up table to compare user input to pre-selected input values. Those values can be key presses, key-press combinations, pointer actions or other forms of user input depending upon the embodiment of the invention; the categories they represent can include questions, objections, alerts, spelling inputs, off-records, and on-records. After determining the category of the user input, the program then proceeds to subroutine Get Current Audio File Position 48 that determines the current audio file position. The program then moves to subroutine Store Event 49 that stores the event in the database depicted by Fig. 2 by placing the file position in the File Position field 402, and placing the event category in the Event Type field 403. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If the user input is a request to record, subroutine Record **50** causes the program to proceed to subroutine Is System Already Recording **51** which determines if the system is already in the record mode. If the program is not in the record mode, the program proceeds to subroutine Go to End of Audio File **52** that moves the file pointer to the end of the file. This prevents accidental erasure of any portion of the record. The program then proceeds to subroutine Store On-Record Event And Record **53** that stores an on-record event in the database Fig. 2 by placing an On-Record event in the Event Type field **403**, the current audio file position in the File Position Field 402, the time in the Extra Data field **407**, and the length of the time data in the Extra Data Length field 406. It then places the Analog to Digital Converter **205** that, in the preferred embodiment is a sound card or chipset, into the input mode. The Analog to Digital Converter **205** then digitizes audio from the court live microphone 302 and the reporter microphone **303** and that data is placed onto the storage. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **45** where it awaits further user input.

If the user input is a request to play back a question, subroutine Play Back a Question **54** causes the program to proceed to subroutine Determine Question Number **55** which determines from user input how many questions

back the question is that the user wants played back. In the preferred embodiment, the function keys on the notebook's keyboard **307** are used for this purpose. F1 means play back the last question, F2 means play back the second to last question etc.... As those skilled in the art will appreciate, other inputs may be pre-selected for this purpose depending upon the embodiment of the invention. The program then moves to subroutine Count Back From Current **57** where it determines which row of the database depicted in Fig. 2 contains the question that is the requested number of questions back from the current file position. It selects that row. The program then proceeds to Retrieve Question Position **58** where it retrieves the file position of the requested question from the File Position field **402** of the selected row. The program then moves to subroutine Play Question **61** where it moves the file pointer to that of the requested question and places the system in play mode. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **45** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Change Speed **59** determines that the user input is a request to adjust the playback speed, the program proceeds to subroutine Adjust Speed **60** where the sampling rate of the Digital to Analog Converter

205 is adjusted according to user input. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Adjust Volume 62 determines that the user input is a request to adjust volume, the program proceeds to subroutine 63 where the volume of the Digital to Analog Converter 205 is adjusted. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If the subroutine Change Track 64 determines that the user input is a request to change the playback track, the program proceeds to subroutine Determine Track 65 where it determines which track to switch to. The program then proceeds to subroutine Set Track 66 where it parses and disperses the proper data from the selected track to the Digital to Analog Converter 205. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Enter Note 67 determines that the user input is the input of a note, which can be a note, spelling word or phrase, the program moves to subroutine Get Note Position 68 where it determines the current audio file position. The program then moves to subroutine Store Note 69 where it stores the note into the database depicted by Fig. 2 by placing the note into the Extra

Data field 407, the current file position into the File Position field 402, the note data length in the Extra Data Length field 406, and placing a Spelling category into the Event Type field 403. The result is depicted in the spelling row example 413. The program then moves to subroutine Add Note To List 70 where it adds the note to a list for display to the user. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Play Note 71 determines that the user input is a request to play back the record at the point of a note, the program moves to subroutine Determine Note 72 where it determines which note in the database to play back. In the preferred embodiment it does this by determining which note was selected with the pointing device. The program then moves to subroutine Retrieve Note 73 where it selects the appropriate row from the database depicted in Fig. 2. The program then moves to subroutine Play Note 74 where it moves the file pointer to the file position indicated by the File Position field 402 of the selected row and sets the system into the play mode. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine See Case Information **75** determines that the user input is a request to see or modify case information, the program moves to subroutine Display Case Information **76** where the data stored in the Case Information Database depicted in Fig. 3 (which, in the preferred embodiment, is a standard database that can be imported into common word processing programs) is displayed. The program then waits for the user to request to close case information then proceeds to subroutine Close Case Information **77** where it stores any changes made to the information by the user into the Case Information Database Fig. 3. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **45** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Correct Notes **78** determines that the user input is a request to correct notes, it moves to subroutine Display notes **79** where the program displays the notes and allows corrections to be made to them. Upon user request, the program moves to subroutine Save Notes **80** where it stores the note corrections to the database adding the corrections to the original notes. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **45** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Stop Recording **81** determines that the user input is a request to stop recording, the program moves to subroutine Store Off-Record

Event 82 where it stores an off-record event in a new row of the database depicted in Fig. 2 by placing an Off-Record event in the Event Type field 403, the current audio file position in the File Position Field 402, the time in the Extra Data field 407, and the length of the time data in the Extra Data Length field 406. The program then proceeds to subroutine Stop Recording 83 where it places the program in stop mode. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Strike Last Question 84 determines that the user input is a request to strike the last question, the program moves to subroutine Strike Question 85 where it selects the row containing the last question event in the database depicted in Fig. 2. The program then sets the Stricken field 405 of the selected row to a value of True. From that point forward, that event is no longer considered a question event by the program. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input 45 where it awaits further user input.

If the subroutine Shut Down Program 86 determines that the user input is a request to shut down the program, the program proceeds to the subroutine Is System Recording 87 where it determines if the program is currently recording. If the program is recording, the program moves to subroutine

Store Off-Record Event 88 where it stores an off-record event in the database Fig. 2 by placing an Off-Record event in the Event Type field 403, the current audio file position in the File Position Field 402, the time in the Extra Data field 407, and the length of the time data in the Extra Data Length field 406. The program then moves to subroutine Stop Recording 90 where it places the program in the stop mode. Then the program moves to subroutine Terminate 89 where it stores all control settings to a file and unloads itself from the central processing memory.

Thus is generated a digital record of the proceedings, an example of which is depicted in Fig. 2. The fields of the database 401-407 are filled with sample rows of information 410-415 according to their linking by the File Position field 402 to the Courtroom Digitized Audio data 408 and the Reporter Digitized Audio data 409.

We now turn to Figs. 10-15 to cover the flow chart of central control and processing routine 209 in its transcribing mode.

The program begins in subroutine Load Program 101 where it transfers from nonvolatile storage into the central processing unit's operating memory. Depending upon the embodiment of the invention, this may be the result of boot-up or user input. It then proceeds to subroutine Initialize 102 where it

initializes variables, files and device drivers. From there the program begins two continuous but independent loops the first of which starts in subroutine Get Status Info **103** which obtains information including the current filename, disk time remaining, audio input and output levels, event counts, current track, current notes, and file length data. The program then proceeds to subroutine Past Event **104** which determines if the current file position is beyond any events about which the reporter needs to be notified such as objections or alerts. If it is, the program proceeds to subroutine Notified **105** where it determines if the reporter has already been notified of that event. If not, the program proceeds to subroutine Notify **107** where it displays information about the event to the reporter and, optionally, places the program in the stop mode. The program then proceeds to subroutine Mark Event Displayed **106** where it marks that event as having been displayed by setting the Displayed field **404** of that event's row in the database depicted in Fig. 2 to a value of true. If the current file position is not past such an event, the program moves to subroutine Display Info **108** where it displays the info obtained in subroutine Get Status Info **103**. The program then completes the circuit of the continuous loop by proceeding to subroutine Get Status Info **103**.

After beginning the first of two continuously running but independent loops, the program proceeds to begin the second of the loops. Subroutine Initialize **102** then proceeds to begin the second continuously running yet independent loop that awaits user input and acts on it then repeats the loop. This loop begins with subroutine Detect User Input **109** which awaits user input and passes that input to the following branch subroutines: Is Play **110**, Adjust Backspace **114**, Is Backspace **116**, Is Adjust Speed **118**, Is Volume **120**, Is Toolbar **122**, Is Stop **124**, Is Rewind **126**, Is Fast Forward **128**, Is See Case Information **130**, Is Change Track **133**, Is See Notes **136**, Is Change Short-cut Keys **142**, Is Copy **145**, Is 5/16 **147**, Is End **149**. Each of those branch subroutines branches to other subroutines depending upon user input. Those branch subroutines will now be discussed in detail.

If subroutine Is Play **110** determines that the user input is a request to play the record, the program moves to subroutine 5/16 **111** to determine if the user has previously placed the program in 5/16 inch per second mode. If the user has placed the program in 5/16 inch per second mode, subroutine Play Slow **113** sets the sampling rate of the Digital to Analog Converter **205** to 25% of the normal rate. This allows the transcribing of data that has been dubbed from a 1 ¼ inch per second cassette player playing cassettes recorded at 5/16

inch per second cassettes. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the dubbing is done via line input jack **308** of the preferred embodiment's notebook computer **304**. The program then goes into play mode. If the user hasn't placed the program in 5/16 inch per second mode, the program proceeds to subroutine Play **112** where it plays at the normal rate. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Adjust Backspace **114** determines that the user input is a request to adjust the backspace amount, the program sets the distance in time the record will rewind before playing again when a request to back space is entered. This variable is used by the subroutine Backspace **117** when a backspace of the record is requested. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Backspace **116** determines that the user input is a request to backspace, the program moves to subroutine Backspace **117** where it places the program in stop mode, moves the file pointer back by the amount set by subroutine Set Backspace **115**, then resumes play. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Adjust Speed **118** determines that the user input is a request to adjust the playback speed, the program proceeds to subroutine Adjust Speed **119** where it adjusts the sampling rate of the Digital to Analog Converter **205**. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Volume **120** detects that user input is a request to adjust the volume level of playback, the program moves to subroutine Adjust Volume **121** which, in the preferred embodiment, adjusts the volume level of the Sound Mixer **204**. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Toolbar **122** detects that the user input is a request to view the program as a toolbar, the program moves to subroutine Toolbar **123** which sizes the face of the program to a small, always on top, toolbar. This feature is used in the preferred embodiment and it allows the reporter to run a word processor on the same computer as the invention and at the same time. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Stop **124** determines that the user input is a request to place the program into stop mode, the program moves to subroutine Stop **125**

where it stops writing data from the Analog to Digital Converter **205** to the storage medium and places the program into stop mode. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Rewind **126** determines that the user input is a request to rewind the record, the program moves to subroutine Rewind **127** where it decrements the file pointer at a predetermined rate. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Fast Forward **128** determines that the user input is a request to fast forward the record, the program moves to subroutine Fast Forward **129** where it increments the file pointer at a predetermined rate that is faster than the normal play rate. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is See Case Information **130** determines that the user input is a request to see Case Information, the program moves to subroutine Display Case Information **131** where the program displays the information contained in the database depicted by Fig. 3. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Change Track **133** determines that the user input is a request to change the playback track, the program moves to subroutine Determine Track **134** where it determines from user input which track to play. After determining which track to play, the program moves to subroutine Set Track **135** where it sets the track by, in the preferred embodiment, parsing the audio data and delivering only the selected track to the Digital to Analog Converter **205**. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is See Notes **138** determines that user input is a request to see the notes, the program moves to subroutine Display Notes **137** where the program displays the notes to the reporter. The program then moves to subroutine Is Play Notes **139** where it determines if further user input is a request to play the record at the point of a note. If further user input is a request to play the record at the point of a note, the program moves to subroutine Find Note **140** where it selects the row for the requested note from the database depicted by Fig. 2. From there, the program moves to subroutine Play Note **141** where it moves the file pointer to the position indicated in the File Position Field **401** of the selected row and places the program into play mode. If further user input is not a request to play the record at the point of a

note, the program moves to subroutine Close Notes **138** where it determines if further user input is a request to close the notes. If further user input is not a request to close the notes, the program moves back to subroutine Is Play Notes **139** and continues looping until the user requests to close notes. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Change Shortcut Keys **142** determines that the user input is a request to change the short-cut keys, the program moves to subroutine Display Modification Window **143** which allows the user to select short-cut keys for the functions of the program. The program then moves to subroutine Modify Short-cut Keys **144** where it places the new short-cut keys into effect. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is Copy **145** determines that the user input is a request to copy the record data, the program moves to subroutine Copy **146** where it allows user input to select the destination of the record and copies the files that comprise the record. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is 5/16 **147** determines that user input is a request to place the program in 5/16 inch per second mode, the program moves to subroutine Set 5/16 **148** where it sets the sampling rate of the Digital to Analog Converter **205** to 25% of normal. The program then proceeds back to subroutine Detect User Input **109** where it awaits further user input.

If subroutine Is End **149** determines that the user input is a request to end the program, the program proceeds to subroutine Terminate **150** which saves all current control settings and file positions to a file used to begin the program in the same place when it is restarted. The program then removes itself from memory and terminates.

Thus is described a computerized voice writer court reporting system which accomplishes its desired objectives. Although the description above contains many details, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but merely as providing illustrations of some of the preferred embodiments of this invention. For example, questions could be marked as stricken by, instead of using a Stricken field **405** in the database, filling the Event Type field **403** of the database with a Stricken value instead of a Question value; the user interface could include a voice recognition system, etc.

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Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))--INDEPENDENT INVENTOR	Docket Number (Optional)

Applicant or Patentee: Tsephanyah Yisrayl Hawkins

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: Computerized Voice Writer Court Reporting System

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- [x] the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- [ ] the application identified above.
- [ ] the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- [x] No such person, concern, or organization exists.
- [ ] Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Tsephanyah Yisrayl Hawkins	Ruyahnah Tipharahyah Hawkins	
NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
Tsephanyah Yisrayl Hawkins	Ruyahnah Tipharahyah Hawkins	
Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor	Signature of inventor
7/7/97	7/7/97	
Date	Date	Date

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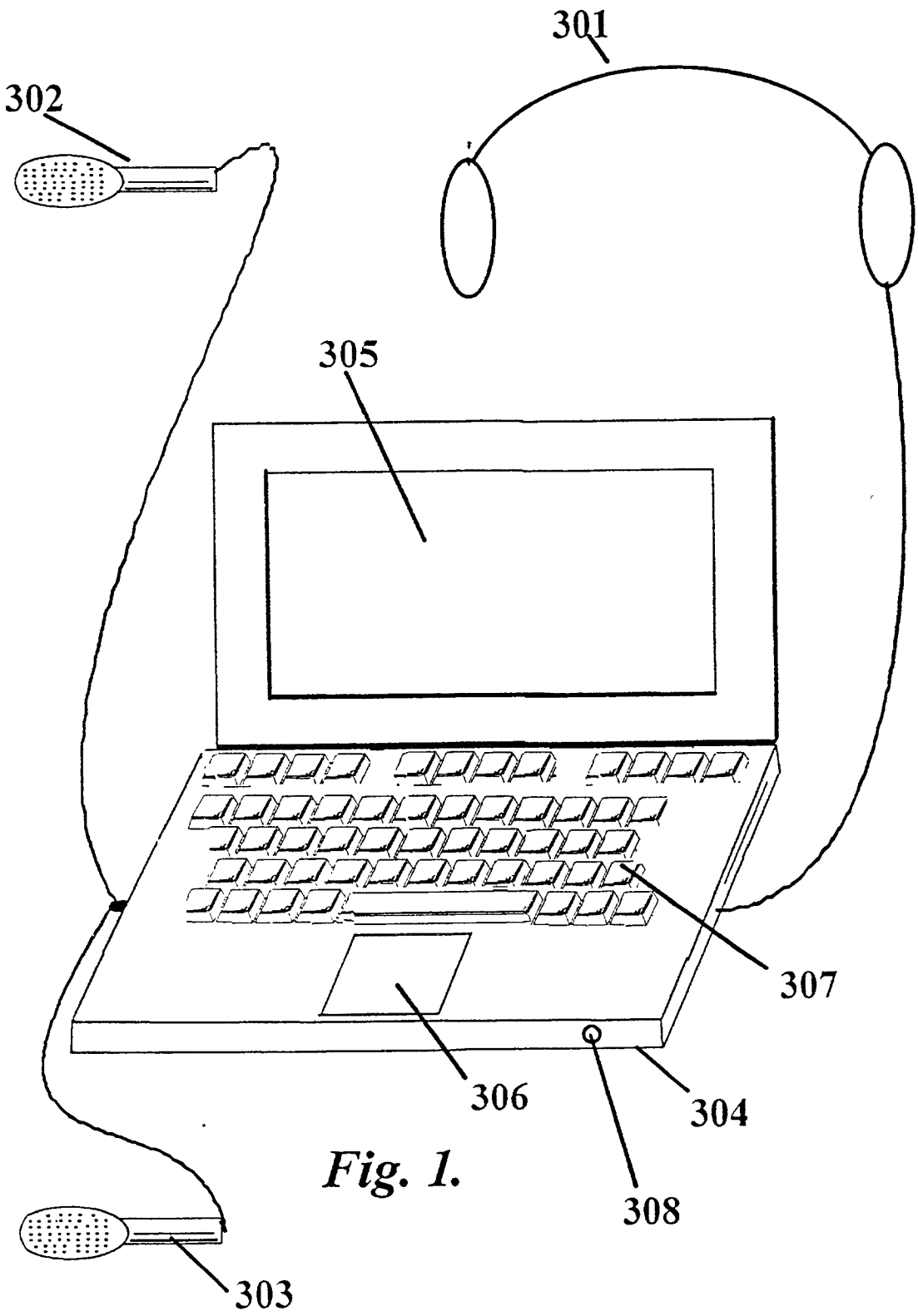


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Key (Autonumber)	File Position	Event Type	Displayed? Y/N	Stricken? Y/N	Extra Data Length	Extra Data	Courtroom Digitized Audio Data (Not a Database Field)	Reporter Digitized Audio Data (Not a Database Field)
1	12,789,000	ON-RECORD	N	N	8	10:57 AM	On The Record	On The Record
2	17,973,987	QUESTION	N	N	0	NULL	Mr. Burton, on the night of October 18, 1996....	Mr. Burton, on the night of October 18, 1996...
3	20,987,453	OBJECTION	N	N	0	NULL	Objection, Your Honor	Objection, Your Honor
4	23,776,842	SPELLING	N	N	10	Quieschent	Quiescent	Quiescent
5	25,987,009	QUESTION	N	Y	0	NULL	Where were you on the night—strike that	Where were you on the night—strike that
6	27,000,879	ALERT	N	N	0	NULL		Marked Exhibit A, A video tape

410 411 412 413 414 415

401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409

Fig. 3.

Docket #	*92D 1342-D1*
Case Name	*Hearnst V. Young*
Suffolk	*Essex*
Court	*Probate*
Volume	*3*
Deposed	*Virginia Young*
Direct Examination By	*Robert Townly, Esq.* *Townly & Townly* *222 Wakefield Street* *Winterstown, PA* *02110* *Representing The Defendant.*
Cross Examination By	*Timothy Heal, Esq.* *Heal & Heal* *34 Main Street* *Watertown, MA* *07865* *Representing the Plaintiff*
Stipulations	*Usual*
Days	*30*
Other	*Hearnst sat in.*

Fig. 4.

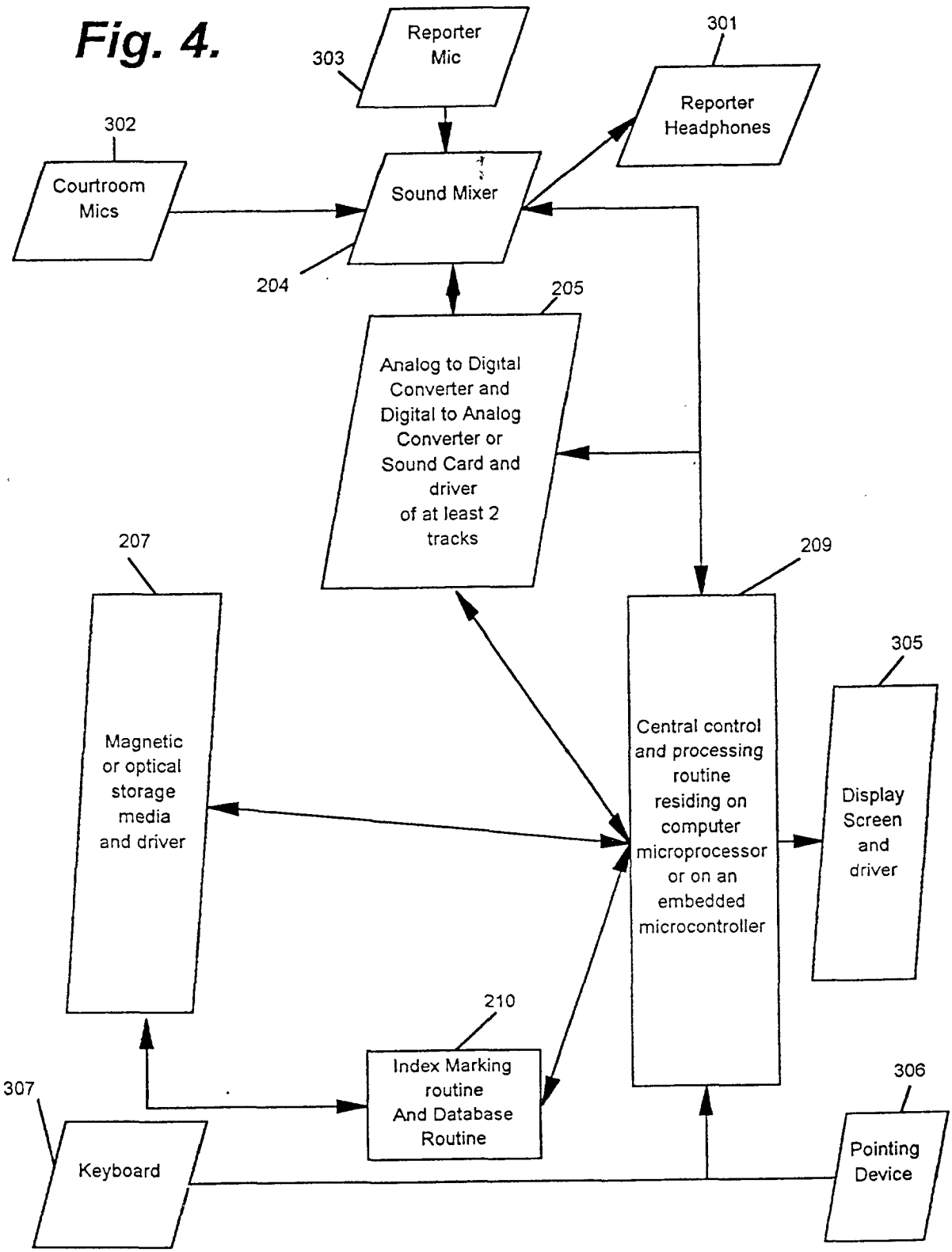
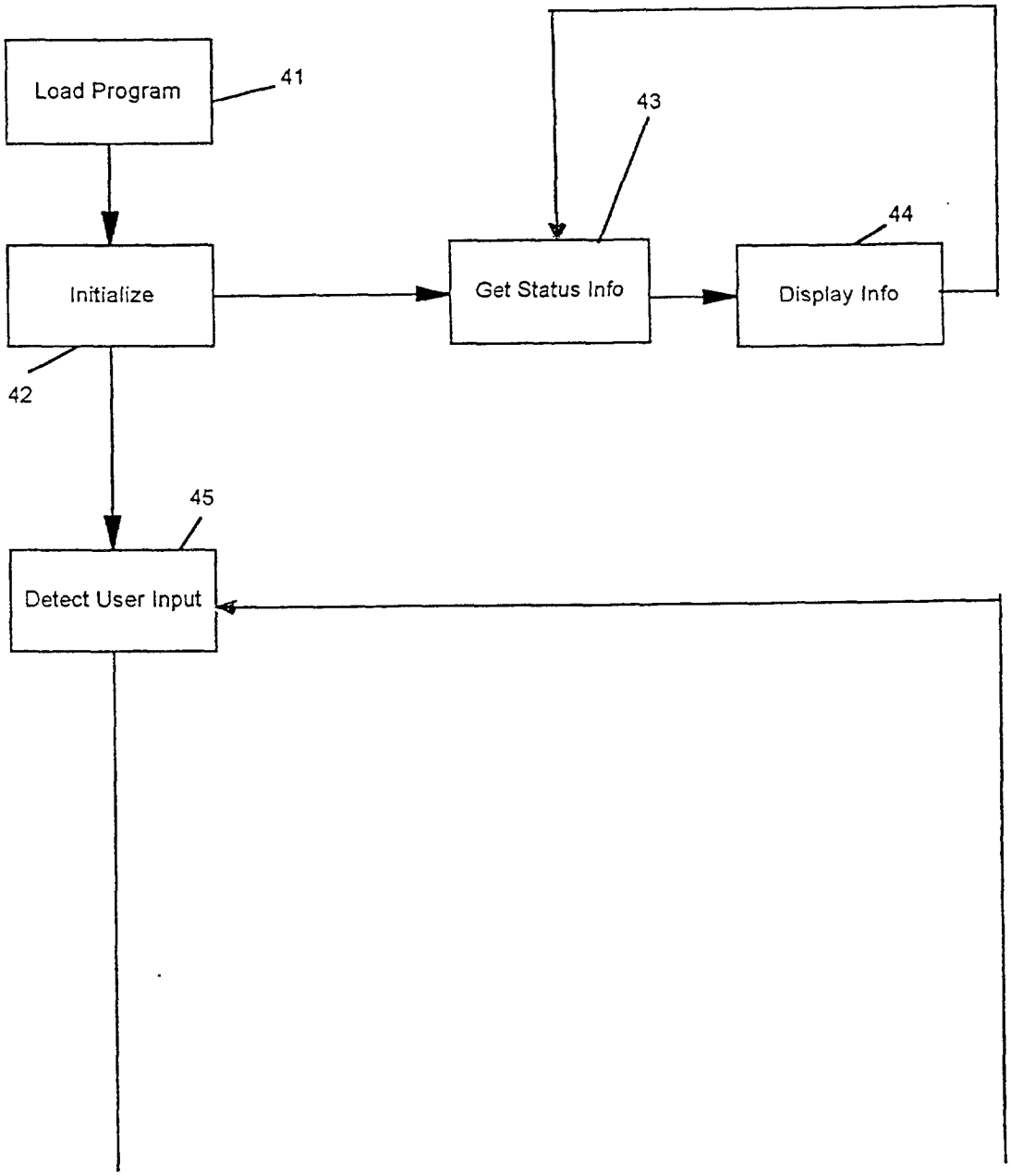

Reporter Mic
303
301
Reporter Headphones
302
Courtroom Mics
Sound Mixer
204
205
Analog to Digital Converter and Digital to Analog Converter or Sound Card and driver of at least 2 tracks
207
209
305
Magnetic or optical storage media and driver
Central control and processing routine residing on computer microprocessor or on an embedded microcontroller
Display Screen and driver
210
Index Marking routine And Database Routine
307
306
Keyboard
Pointing Device

Fig. 5.


Load Program
41
Initialize
42
43
Get Status Info
44
Display Info
45
Detect User Input

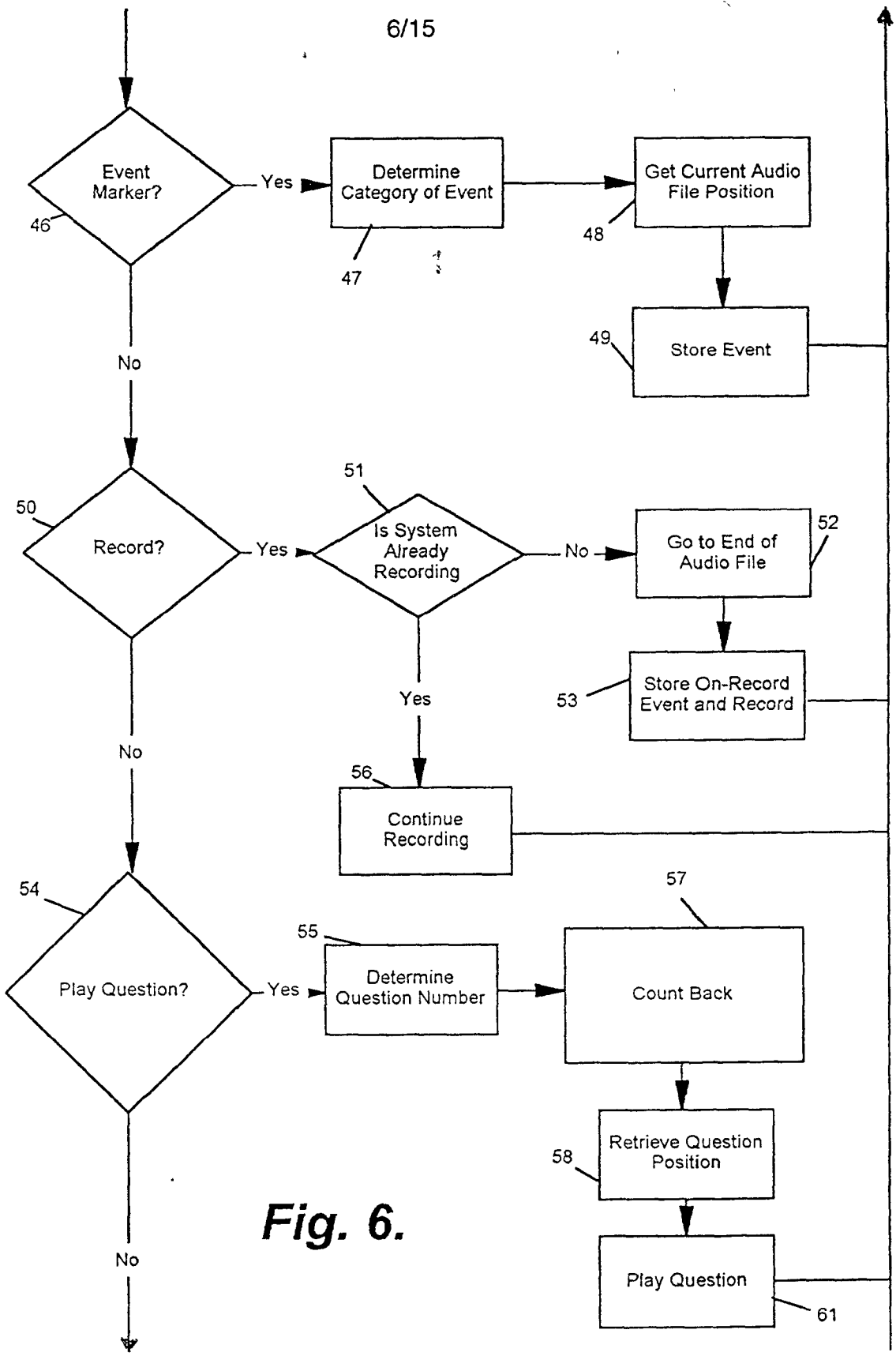

Event Marker?
46
Yes
Determine Category of Event
47
Get Current Audio File Position
48
Store Event
49
No
Record?
50
Yes
Is System Already Recording
51
No
Go to End of Audio File
52
Store On-Record Event and Record
53
Yes
No
Continue Recording
56
Play Question?
54
Yes
Determine Question Number
55
Count Back
57
Retrieve Question Position
58
Play Question
61
No

Fig. 6.

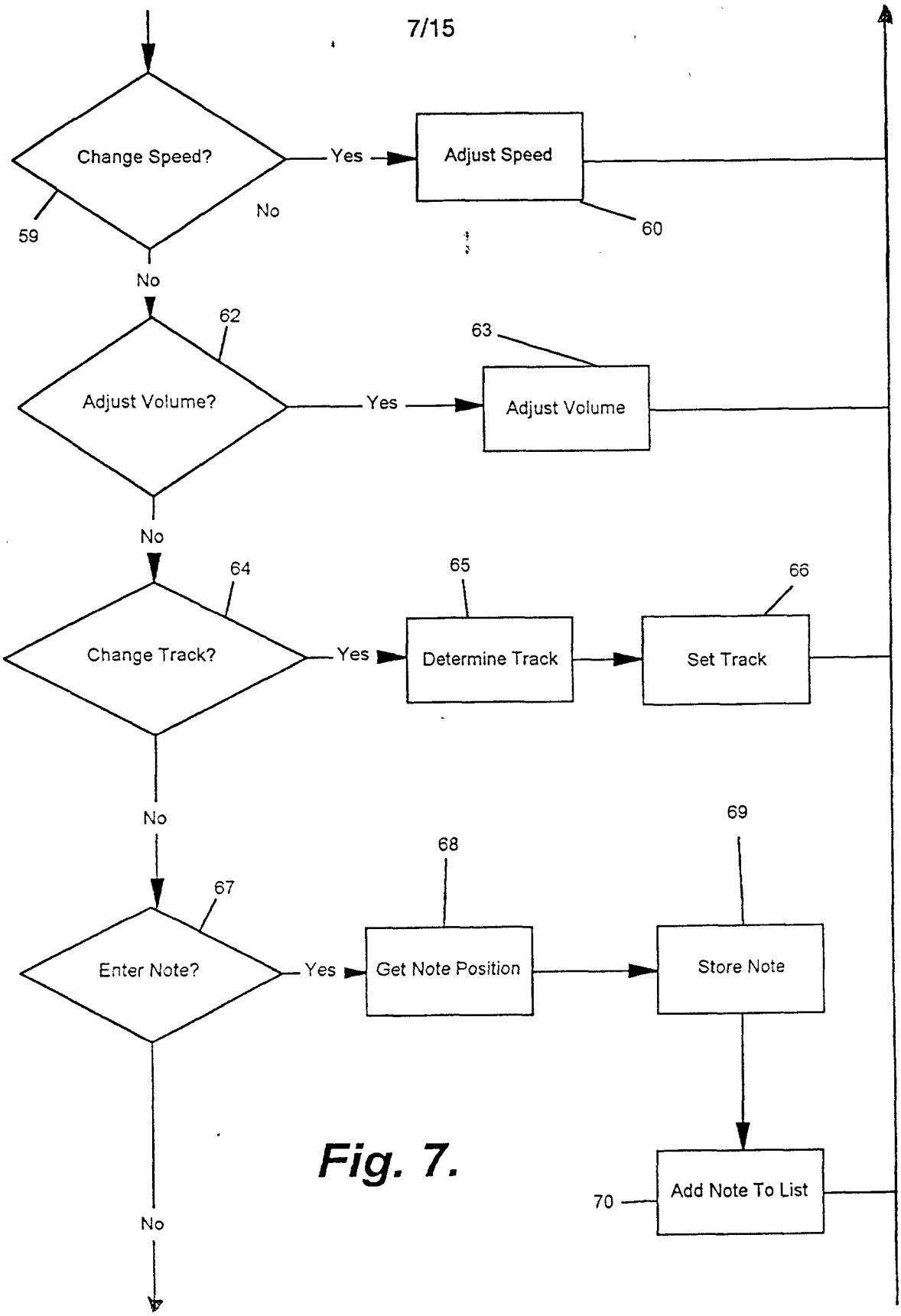

Change Speed?
Yes
Adjust Speed
No
59
60
No
62
63
Adjust Volume?
Yes
Adjust Volume
No
64
65
66
Change Track?
Yes
Determine Track
Set Track
No
69
68
67
Enter Note?
Yes
Get Note Position
Store Note
No
70
Add Note To List

Fig. 7.

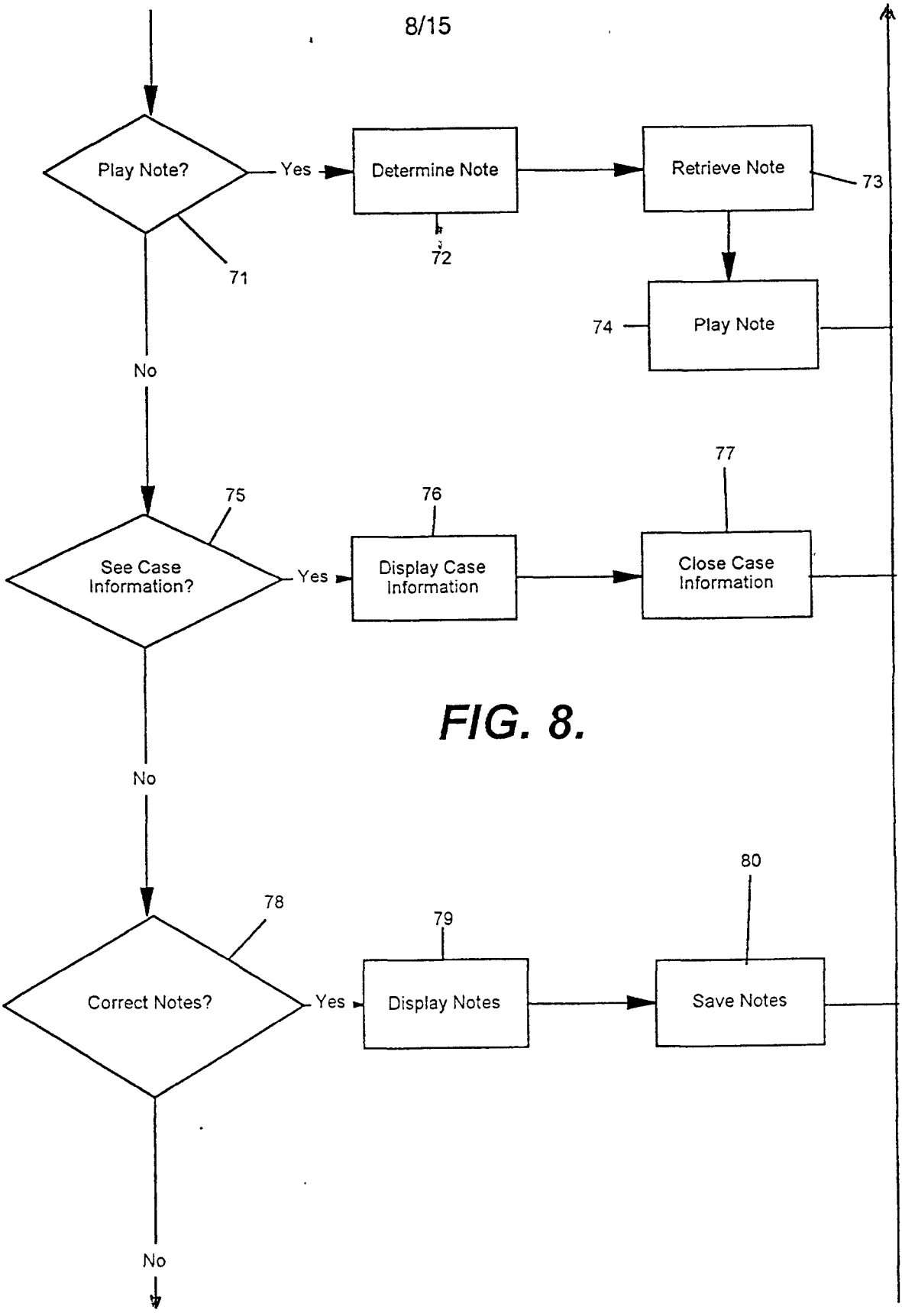

Play Note?
Yes
Determine Note
Retrieve Note
73
72
71
74
Play Note
No
77
75
76
See Case Information?
Yes
Display Case Information
Close Case Information
No
80
78
79
Correct Notes?
Yes
Display Notes
Save Notes
No

FIG. 8.

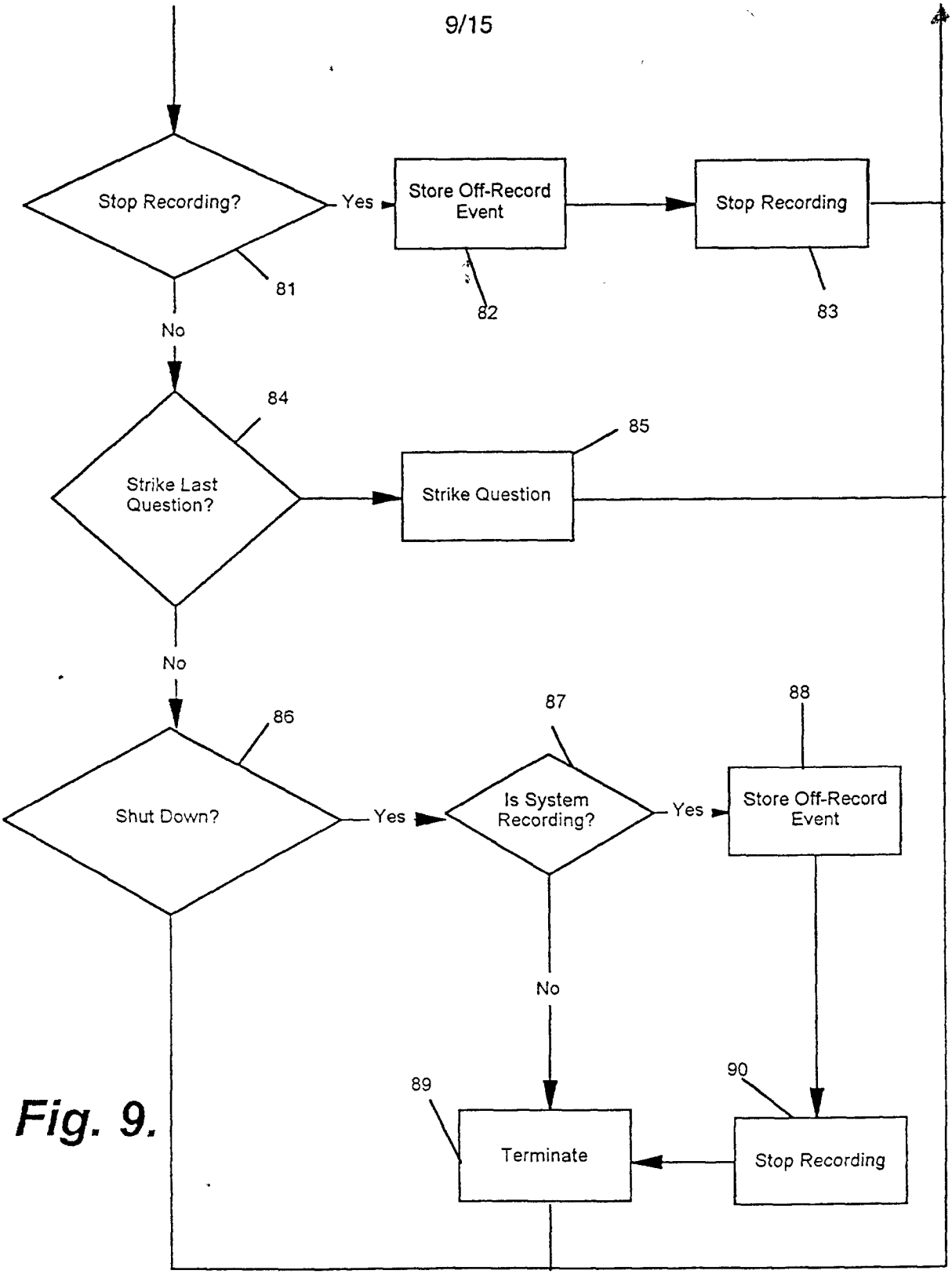

Stop Recording?
Yes
Store Off-Record Event
Stop Recording
81
82
83
No
84
Strike Last Question?
85
Strike Question
No
86
Shut Down?
Yes
87
Is System Recording?
Yes
88
Store Off-Record Event
No
89
Terminate
90
Stop Recording

Fig. 9.

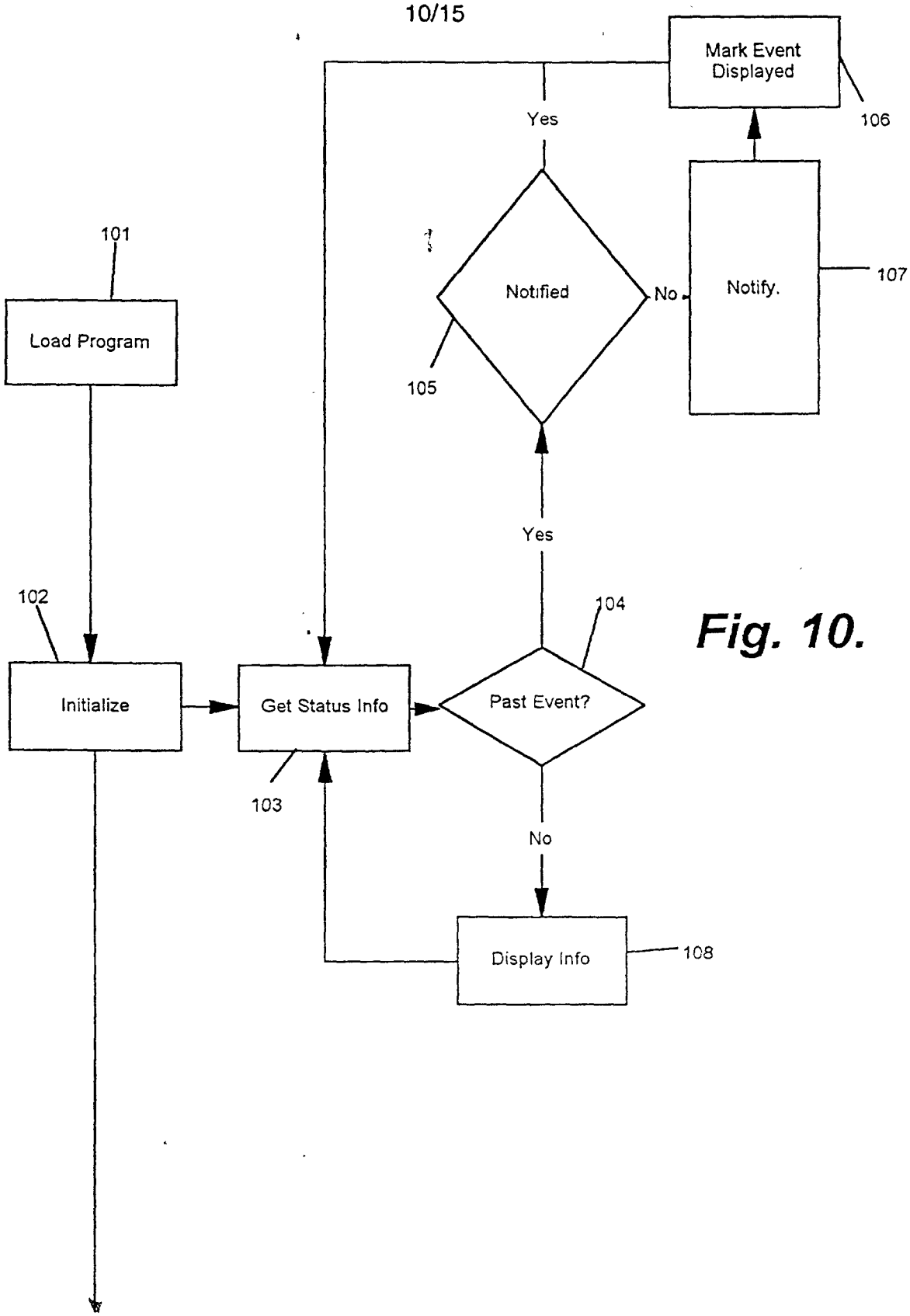

Mark Event Displayed
106
Yes
Notified
No
Notify.
107
105
101
Load Program
Yes
102
104
Initialize
Get Status Info
Past Event?
103
No
Display Info
108

Fig. 10.

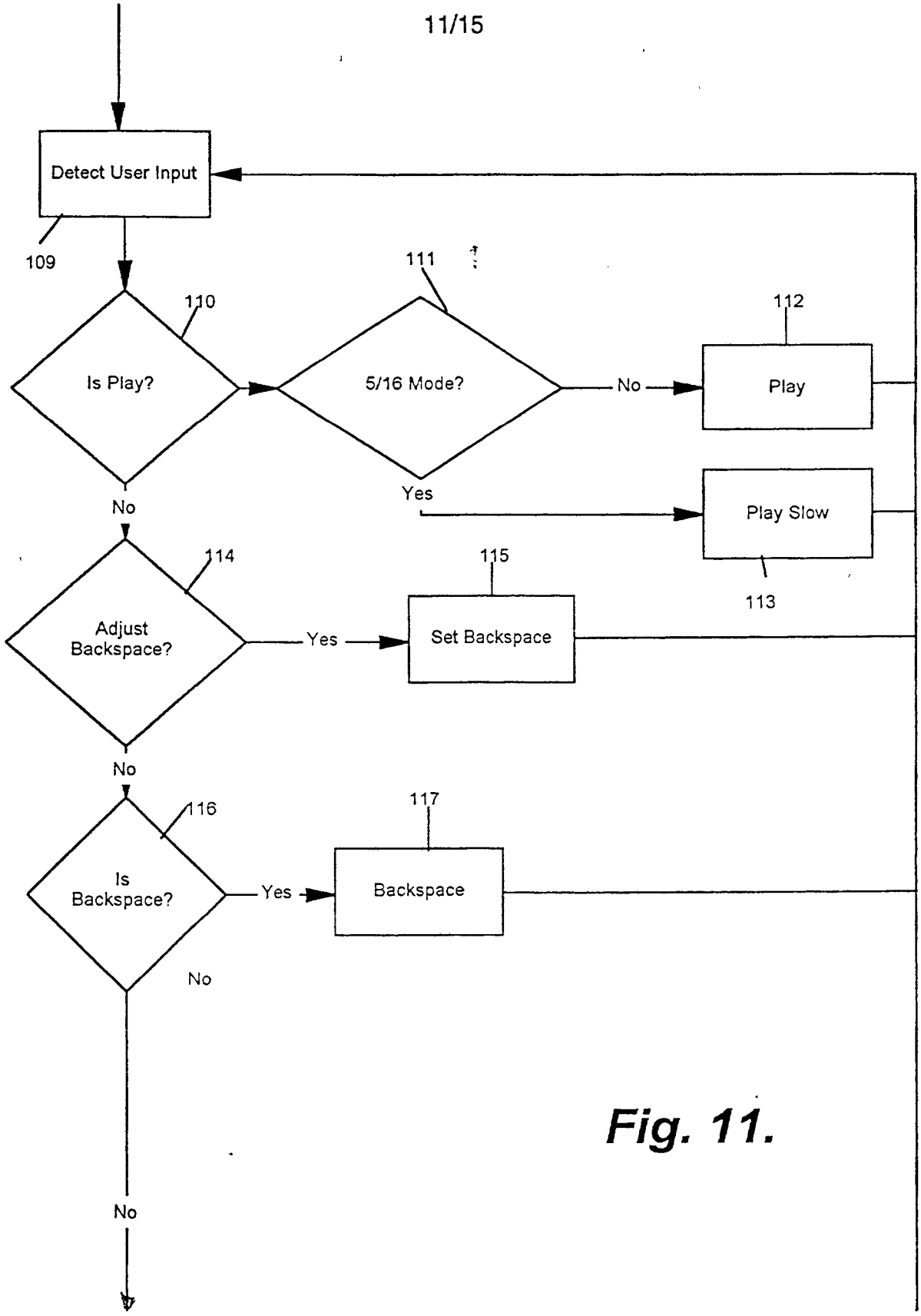

Detect User Input
109
Is Play?
110
111
5/16 Mode?
112
No
Play
Yes
Play Slow
113
No
Adjust Backspace?
114
Yes
Set Backspace
115
No
Is Backspace?
116
117
Yes
Backspace
No
No

Fig. 11.

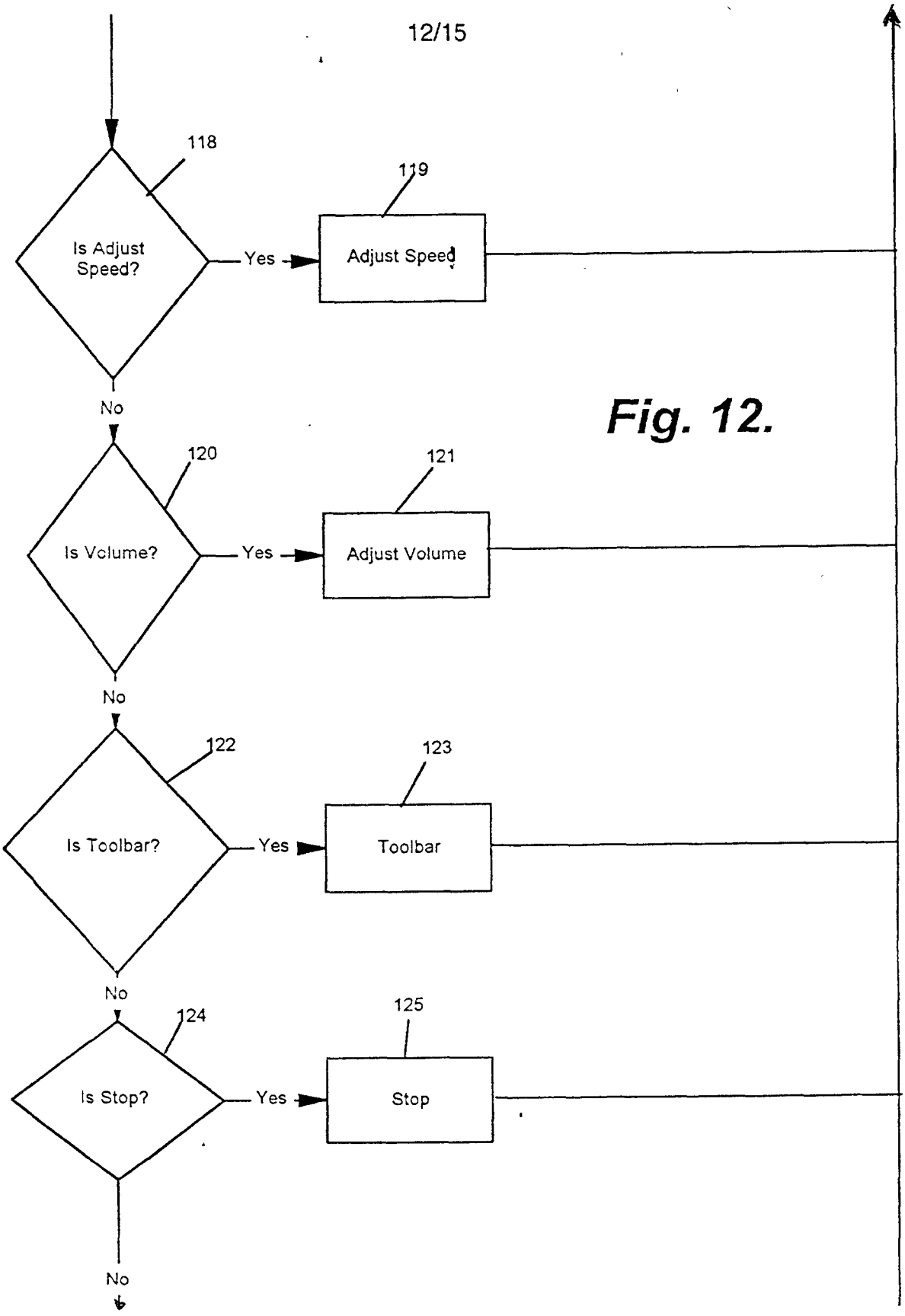

118
Is Adjust Speed?
Yes
119
Adjust Speed
No
120
Is Volume?
Yes
121
Adjust Volume
No
122
Is Toolbar?
Yes
123
Toolbar
No
124
Is Stop?
Yes
125
Stop
No

Fig. 12.

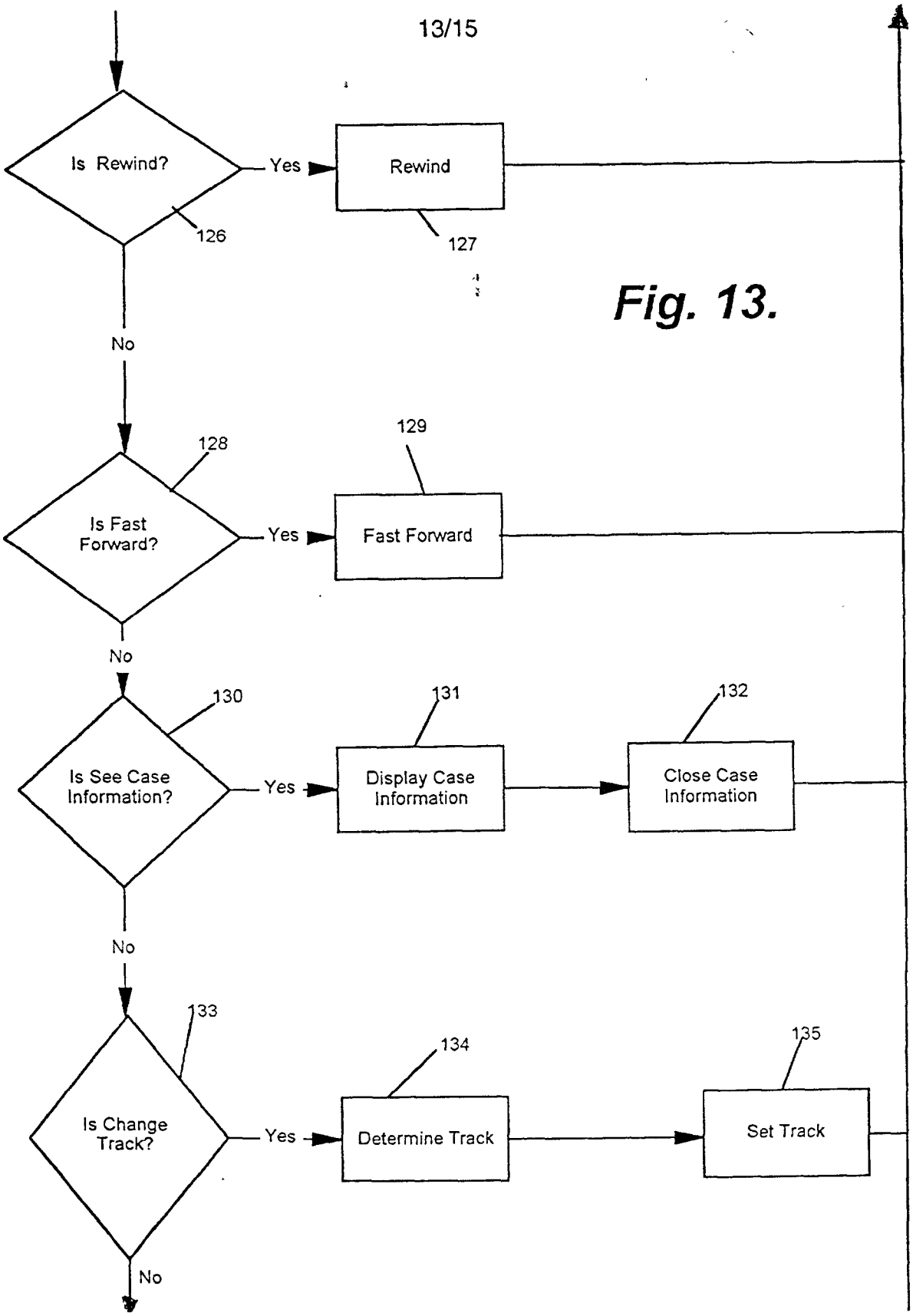
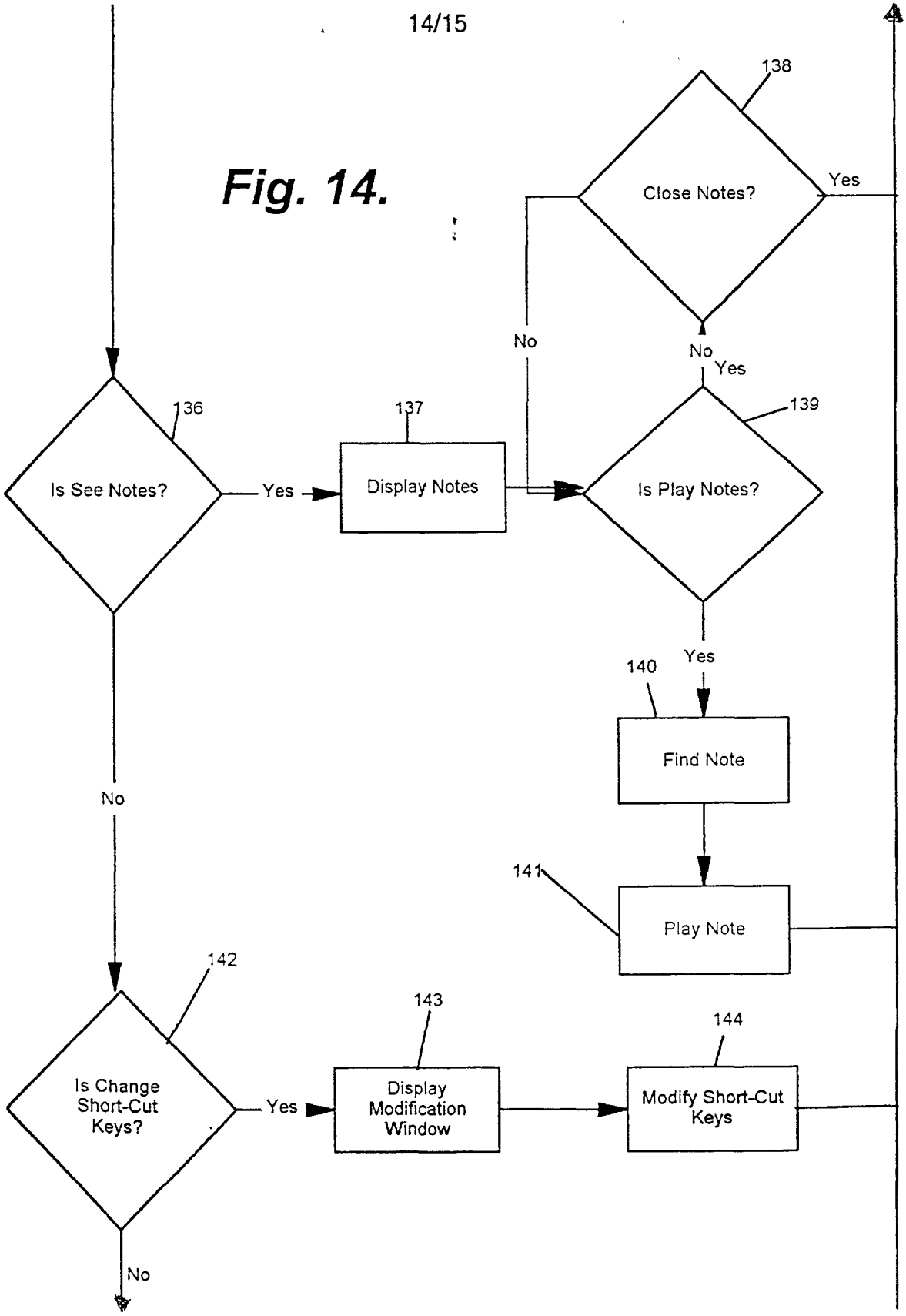

Is Rewind?
Yes
Rewind
126
127
No
128
Is Fast Forward?
129
Yes
Fast Forward
No
130
Is See Case Information?
131
132
Yes
Display Case Information
Close Case Information
No
133
Is Change Track?
134
135
Yes
Determine Track
Set Track
No

Fig. 13.

Fig. 14.


4
138
Close Notes?
Yes
No
No
Yes
136
Is See Notes?
Yes
137
Display Notes
139
Is Play Notes?
Yes
140
Find Note
No
141
Play Note
142
Is Change Short-Cut Keys?
Yes
143
Display Modification Window
144
Modify Short-Cut Keys
No

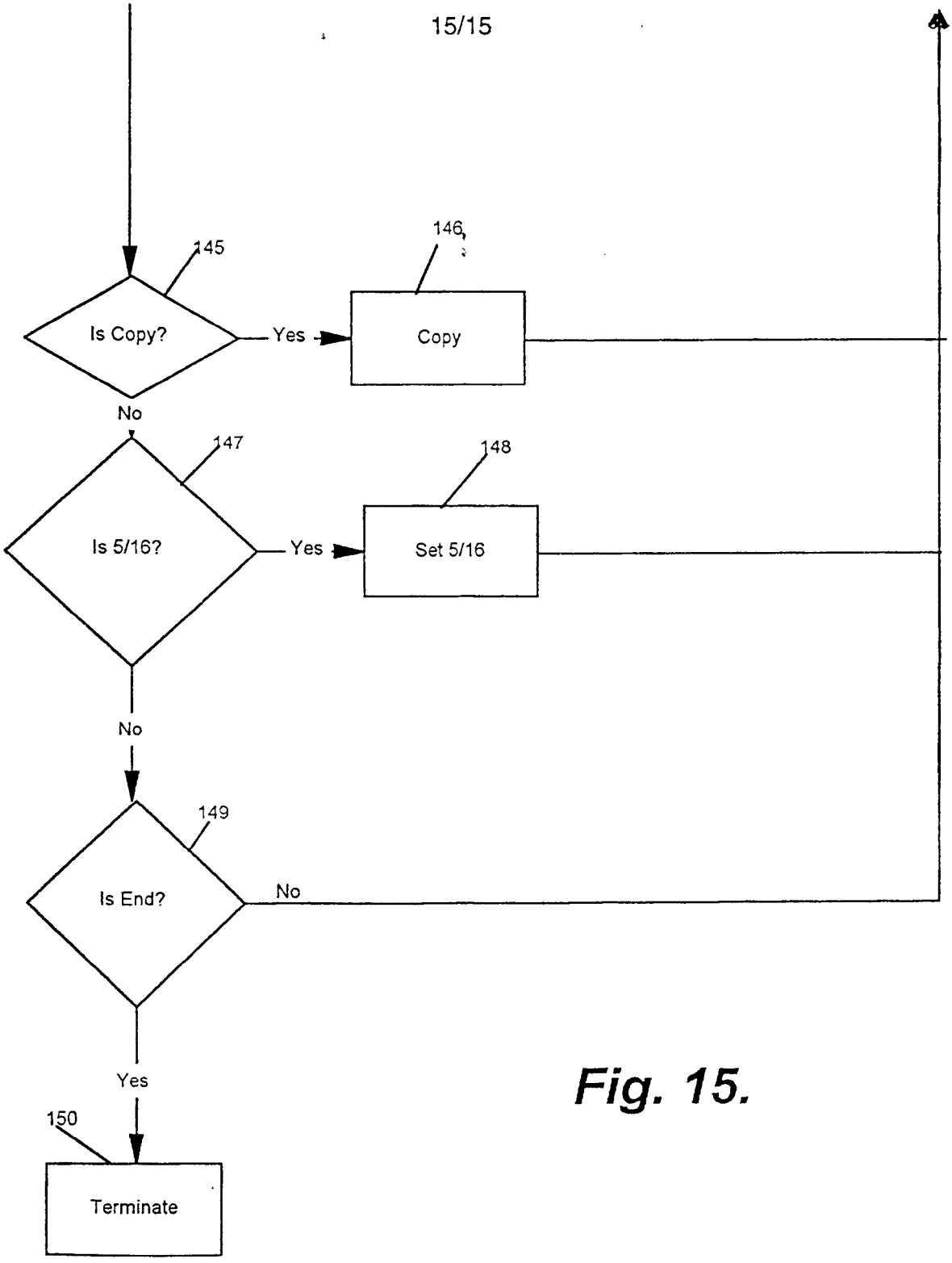

145
Is Copy?
Yes
146
Copy
No
147
Is 5/16?
Yes
148
Set 5/16
No
149
Is End?
No
Yes
150
Terminate

Fig. 15.